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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
  - receiving scope data, wherein the scope data specifies a received scope level;  
scope level;
  - determining whether datasource configuration data exists at the received scope  
level;
  - if the datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level, finding the  
datasource configuration data at the received scope level;
  - if the datasource configuration data does not exist at the received scope level,  
finding the datasource configuration data at a next scope level;~~finding datasource~~  
~~configuration data based on the scope level;~~
  - finding an environment variable based on the scope data; and
  - loading a database driver with the~~based on the~~ datasource configuration data and  
the environment variable.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - attempting a connection to a database server via the database driver.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the finding the environment  
variable further comprises:
  - determining whether the environment variable exists at ~~a current scope~~the  
received scope level;
  - if the environment variable exists at the received scope level, finding the  
environment variable at the received scope level; and
  - if the environment variable does not exist at the received scope level, finding the  
environment variable at a next scope level.

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5. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving scope data, wherein the scope data specifies a received scope level;  
~~a scope level;~~

means for determining whether datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level;

means for finding the datasource configuration data at the received scope level if the datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level;

means for finding the datasource configuration data at a next scope level if the datasource configuration data does not exist at the received scope level;  
~~means for finding datasource configuration data based on the scope level;~~

means for finding an environment variable based on the scope data; and

means for loading a database driver with the~~based on the~~ datasource configuration data and the environment variable; and

means for attempting a connection to a database server via the database driver.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the means for finding the environment variable further comprises:

means for determining whether the environment variable exists at  
~~a current scope level;~~  
the received scope level;

means for finding the environment variable at the received scope level if the environment variable exists at the received scope level; and

means for finding the environment variable at a next scope level if the environment variable does not exist at the received scope level.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

means for reporting success if the connection is successful.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

means for reporting failure if the connection fails.

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9. (Currently amended) A ~~storage~~signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

receiving scope data, wherein the scope data specifies a received scope level;  
~~scope level;~~

determining whether datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level;

if the datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level, finding the datasource configuration data at the received scope level;

if the datasource configuration data does not exist at the received scope level, finding the datasource configuration data at a next scope level;~~finding datasourcee~~  
~~configuration data based on the scope level, wherein the finding the datasource~~  
~~configuration data further comprises determining whether the datasourcee configuration~~  
~~data exists at a current scope level;~~

finding an environment variable based on the scope data;

loading a database driver ~~with the~~based on the datasource configuration data and the environment variable; and

attempting a connection to a database server via the database driver.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~signal-bearing medium of claim 9, wherein the finding the environment variable further comprises:

determining whether the environment variable exists at the current scope level;~~the~~  
received scope level;

if the environment variable exists at the received scope level, finding the environment variable at the received scope level; and

if the environment variable does not exist at the received scope level, finding the environment variable at a next scope level.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~signal-bearing medium of claim 9, further comprising:

reporting success if the connection is successful.

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12. (Currently amended) The ~~storage~~ signal-bearing medium of claim 9, further comprising:

reporting failure if the connection fails.

13. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

receiving scope data, wherein the scope data specifies a received scope level;~~a scope level,~~

determining whether datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level,

if the datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level,  
finding the datasource configuration data at the received scope level,

if the datasource configuration data does not exist at the received scope level, finding the datasource configuration data at a next scope level,  
~~finding the datasource configuration data based on the scope level, wherein the finding the datasource configuration data further comprises determining whether the datasource configuration data exists at a current scope level,~~

finding an environment variable based on the scope data,

loading a database driver with the~~based on the~~ datasource configuration data and the environment variable,

attempting a connection to a database server via the database driver.

14. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the finding the environment variable further comprises:

determining whether the environment variable exists at the received scope level;

if the environment variable exists at the received scope level, finding the environment variable at the received scope level; and

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if the environment variable does not exist at the received scope level, finding the environment variable at a next scope level.~~a current scope.~~

15. (Original) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

reporting success if the connection is successful.

16. (Original) The computer system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

reporting failure if the connection fails.

17. (Currently amended) A method of configuring a computer to perform the method comprising:

configuring the computer to receive scope data, wherein the scope data specifies a received scope level;~~a scope level;~~

configuring the computer to determine whether datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level;

configuring the computer to find the datasource configuration data at the received scope level if the datasource configuration data exists at the received scope level;

configuring the computer to find the datasource configuration data at a next scope level if the datasource configuration data does not exist at the received scope level;~~configuring the computer to find datasource configuration data based on the scope level;~~

configuring the computer to find an environment variable based on the scope data;  
and

configuring the computer to load a database driver with the~~based on the~~  
datasource configuration data and the environment variable.

18.(Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

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configuring the computer to attempt a connection to a database server via the database driver.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the configuring the computer to find the environment variable further comprises:

configuring the computer to determine whether the environment variable exists at the received scope level;

configuring the computer to find the environment variable at the received scope level if the environment variable exists at the received scope level; and

configuring the computer to find the environment variable at a next scope level if the environment variable does not exist at the received scope level. ~~a current scope level.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

configuring the computer to report success if the connection is successful.  
~~determine whether the environment variable exists at a current scope level.~~